

Abel, Miss Annie K. 1012

Miss Annie Heloise Abel

10 West St.

Northampton, Mass.

Dept. of History

Sunet College

October 5th, 1920

Miss Annie Heloise Abel
10 West Street
Northampton, Mass.

Dear Madam:

In speaking with Dr. Hodge last week about the medals given to keep the American-Indians friendly, it was suggested that I might do well to write to you.

Our Society has a rather important collection of these medals which, as you doubtless know, were given by the French and English as well as by one, at least, of the proprietary Governors. May I ask if your experience has brought you in touch with someone in the Department of Indian affairs at Washington who would be likely to have information on this subject? It is desirable that we publish these medals, and I am anxious to get all the data concerning them possible. It seemed that your experience might save fruitless asking at the wrong point, and enable me without loss of time to connect with the individual who would have such matter in hand.

I shall much appreciate anything that you can do for me, and trust that my request will not unduly burden you.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

SPN/E

SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary

The American Numismatic Society,

Broadway, between 155th and 156th streets, New York.

Dear Sir :

I regret that your courteous inquiry could not be earlier attended to. Duties incident to the opening of college have, however, kept me very much occupied ever since its arrival until today. Nevertheless, I have given considerable thought to it and have written to the only person I know of who may possibly be in possession of the information you desire. I am confident there is not a single individual in the regular force of the Indian Office who is even remotely interested. There is a terrible dearth there of men or women with the historical sense. Current business is too all-absorbing, and necessarily so.

For some eighteen years I have made researches among the files of the Indian Office and have noted frequent reference to the custom of bestowing medals upon the Indians. Occasionally I have taken notes on the matter but not with information about the medals as the immediate end in view.

I have now in contemplation an extensive work on Governmental Policy in the Conduct of Indian Affairs . It is my intention to make it a comparative study in colonization. Now, if you are not in too great a hurry for the material on medals, I would venture to suggest that I make that a sort of by-product of my larger and more comprehensive work. The person I referred to above who may know vastly more than I is too old to undertake any task. In fact, since

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he has not answered my letter, I am very much afraid that he has succumbed to an illness that was threatening him all the summer.

Very sincerely yours,

Aunt Heloise Abel. Ph.D. (Tale).

Professor of History in Smith College.

10, West Street, Northampton, Mass.

October 18, 1920.

October 19th, 1920

Professor Anne Heloise Abel
10 West Street
Northampton, Mass.

Dear Professor Abel:

Your letter of October 18th arrived this morning. Thank you very heartily for your kind offer to make notes as you proceed with your work on Governmental Policy in the Conduct of Indian Affairs, and I very gratefully accept this suggestion. I shall, of course, be busy for a long time gathering my material so that there will be no difficulty so far as the time is concerned.

There is, as you doubtless know, a mass of secondary material, but, until Professor Hodge referred me to you, I was quite at a loss as to how I should get in touch with the original sources in the Indian Office.

May I say that I should be very glad to welcome you at our Museum and show you our Collection of these Peace medals, if you are in New York any day with time permitting.

I should also, as a matter of course, wish to bear any incidental expense to which you might be put, either in having transcripts made or in any lightening of the obligation under which your kindness will place me.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

SPH/E